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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

March 12, 2015

John Spencer
Simplot Phosphates, LLC
9401 North Highway 191
Vernal, Utah 84078-7802

Subject: Tentative Approval to Commence Large Mining Operations, Vernal Phosphate Company, Simplot Mine, M/047/0007, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Spencer:

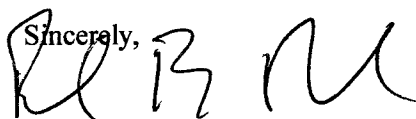
The Division has completed a review of your latest response regarding your Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (Notice), received March 9, 2015. The Division is now prepared to tentatively approve the updated Notice for the Intent and significant revision for the Simplot Mine.

The notice of tentative approval will be published in the appropriate Salt Lake City and Uintah County newspapers (copy attached). This will begin a 30-day public comment period. The Division will also notify the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC). If no substantive comments are received during the public comment period, the Division will then issue its final approval for this project. Changes to the Notice may be needed if substantive comments are received.

Prior to issuing final approval, we require that you provide us with:

1. Two copies of the complete and corrected plan. When final approval is issued, one copy will be stamped "approved" and returned to you for your records;
2. Updated reclamation surety costs are now required at this time. Once the Division has determined that the proposed reclamation surety calculations are satisfactory, please submit the surety calculations as part of Appendix K in your NOI. Please contact Penny Berry at 801-538-5291 or by e mail at bondcoordinator@utah.gov to obtain the appropriate bond and reclamation contract forms.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience in completing this permitting process. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 801-538-5261 or April Abate at 538-5214.

Sincerely,


Paul B. Baker
Minerals Program Manager

PBB:pb
Enclosure: SHPO Letter
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